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Message Text

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72
ACTION EB-11

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 FEA-02 INT-08 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01

PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20 USIA-15 ACDA-19 IO-14 SCI-06

NSF-04 TRSE-00 DRC-01 /168 W
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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7507
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USDOC WASHDC
USAEC WASHDC

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: ENRG, TECH, UK
SUBJECT: FURTHER ATTENTION PAID TO NUCLEAR POWER QUES-
TIONS.

1. THE TIMES OF JANUARY 29 PRINTED A WASHINGTON DATE-
LINED ARTICLE CONCERNING RALPH NADER'S TESTIMONY THE
PREVIOUS DAY BEFORE THE JOINT CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEE
ON ATOMIC ENERGY. THE ARTICLE, CAPTIONED "RALPH NADER
ACCUSES COMMISSION OF CONCEALING SERIOUS SAFETY PROBLEMS
OF U.S. REACTORS", INCLUDES EXTENSIVE QUOTES OF HIS
VERBAL ATTACKS ON THE AEC AND NOTES PROMINENTLY NADER'S
CONCERN OVER NUCLEAR SAFETY. THE NEWS STORY, WHILE CON-
TAINING NO EDITORIAL COMMENT OR EXPLICIT ASSOCIATION
WITH THE PENDING HMG DECISION ON REACTOR PURCHASES, IS
CONSISTENT WITH RECENT REPORTS PRINTED IN THE TIMES
RAISING QUESTIONS ABOUT LIGHT WATER REACTOR SAFETY.

2. NOT ALL THE RECENT PUBLICITY ON U.S. REACTORS IS
ADVERSE, HOWEVER. A CONSERVATIVE PARTY ACTION GROUP
CALLED PEST (SIC - THE PROGRESSIVE TORY PRESSURE GROUP)
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HAS JUST PUBLISHED A PAPER BY A CONSULTING ENGINEER

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NAMED DERRICK STREETON ENTITLED "NUCLEAR POWER, A TIME FOR CHANGE". THE PAPER ARGUES FOR ADOPTION OF U.S. LWR'S OVER THE MEDIUM TERM ALONG LINES SIMILAR TO THOSE PROPOUNDED BY THE CEGB AND THE NATIONAL NUCLEAR CORPORATION, I.E., GREATER ECONOMY AND PROVEN COMMERCIAL FEASIBILITY. A ROLE FOR U.K. TECHNOLOGY IS CITED IN THE LONGER TERM DEVELOPMENT OF GAS COOLED HIGH TEMPERATURE AND FAST BREEDER REACTORS.PUBLICATION OF THE PAMPHLET WAS NOTED IN A REVIEW OF ITS RECOMMENDATIONS IN THE FINANCIAL TIMES OF JANUARY 29.

3. THE SAME FINANCIAL TIMES ARTICLE STATED THAT THE PARLIAMENTARY SELECT SUB-COMMITTEE CONSIDERING NUCLEAR REACTOR POLICY MAY PUBLISH ITS REPORT AS EARLY AS FEBRUARY 4. THE ARTICLE'S AUTHOR, SCIENCE EDITOR DAVID FISHLOCK, PREDICTS THAT THE SUB-COMMITTEE WILL "REJECT OUTRIGHT THE CEGB'S PLAN TO IMPORT THE U.S. PRESSURIZED WATER REACTOR".

ANNENBERG

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